

FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

This is UNEVALUATED Information

NORTH KOREAN TRENDS

DATE OF REPORT: 28 August 1956

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

NORTH KOREAN TRENDS

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1. The North Korean People's Armed Forces propagated as follows:
 - A. The South Korean armed forces are the "troops of clubs". In other words, South Korean military personnel are beaten with club in their routine drilling and training.
 - B. Farmers are forced to submit all of their crops to the Syngman Rhee government. The government feeds its soldiers with part of its grain and exports the rest to the U.S. for rotten flour, imported under the name of assistance from U.S. to Korea.
 - C. The aggressive U.S. is ambitious to wrest territory from Korea, occupy China, and further tries to peep into the Soviet Union. This U.S. attitude is caused by its intention to expand markets for U.S. products, and it was on this account that the bloodshed between Koreans was started.
 - D. There are an innumerable number of street-girls, harlots, and "prostitutes for westerners" in the South, whose bawdage is merely for their mouths.
 - E. In the South, people up to 50 years of age are driven into the military service.
 - F. The final victory will be on the side of North Korea. Source stated that he was very grateful for the good hospitality provided him by the South Korean armed forces unit, to which he surrendered. At the concentration camp, he read newspapers, magazines, and other publications, in which he discovered that there existed various freedoms in South Korea.

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4. [] prices of commodities as follows:

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Rice	800 Wōn per small Mal
Rice candy (known as Yōt)	100 Wōn per Kūn
Liquor (Makkōlli)	100 Wōn per Toe
Mirror (small size)	50 Wōn each
Tobacco (Taedong-mun)	25 Wōn per package
Tobacco (Kalmaegi)	30 Wōn per package
Tobacco (Kūmgang)	45 Wōn per package
Matches	5 Wōn per box
Thread	50 Wōn per small reel
Socks (Chinese-made, high-grade)	200 Wōn per pair
Soap container (Chinese-made)	250 Wōn per case
Flash light (with battery, Chinese-made)	800 Wōn each
Pocket-ledger (high-grade, Chinese-made)	1,100 Wōn per volume
Epaulet (for Sergeant)	85 Wōn per pair
Epaulet (for Private)	80 Wōn per pair
Colored pencil (Chinese-made)	100 Wōn each
Canvas shoes (black, Chinese-made)	450 Wōn per pair
Powder ink (home-made)	50 Wōn per small bag
Pencil (home-made)	10 Wōn each
Winter underwear (high-grade, Chinese made)	1,200 Wōn per pair
Photograph (of oneself)	1,200 Wōn (Class A)
Photograph (of oneself)	800 Wōn (Class B)
Photograph (of oneself)	200 Wōn (Class C)

[] there was little difference between blackmarket prices and open-market prices.

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5. [] since the price reductions, commodities had been in good supply at the guild store.
6. [] corn is one of those foods which are most readily available. Among the scarce items are drugs and foreign commodities.
7. Among the aid goods to North Korea were 50,000 tons of flour from the Soviet Union, rice from China, and sugar, soap, and towels from Hungary, which were known of through press releases and propaganda by the authorities.
8. [] large quantity of tax-grain stored in a warehouse in T'onggang-gun (P'yongan-namdo). [] large quantity of rice piled up in the vicinity of the Pokkye Railroad Station.

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9. [redacted] in Kuyong-ni (Kimbwa-gun), [redacted] were out of grain, and [redacted] the farmers in the province (To) ran out of food, as the result of a bad harvest, and were wandering in urban areas seeking jobs. 25X1
10. [redacted] the grain from farmers was stored in each county (Kun) and was safeguarded by military personnel. 25X1
11. [redacted] 25X1
12. [redacted] canned fish for Chinese personnel. [redacted] biscuits were available for the North Korean soldiers, who sometimes carried roasted powder rice for food. 25X1
13. [redacted] all kinds of food goods were available on the market in 1946. 25X1
14. [redacted] in Hŭngnam, [redacted] fish, such as alaska pollack, atka mackerel, and flatfish, were caught by the military. [redacted] Kuyong-ni (Kimbwa-gun, Kangwŏn-do) [redacted] pancakes were provided within the household, and bakery goods were available at Chinese restaurants. 25X1
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25X1
25X1
15. The typical menu [redacted] was of gruel with kidney beans and rice cake. 25X1
16. [redacted] 25X1
17. [redacted] two (2) suits of uniforms, two (2) suits of fatigues, three (3) short drawers, three (3) sets of summer underwear, three (3) mufflers, one (1) winter shirt, one (1) pair of canvas shoes, one (1) pair of summer canvas shoes, two (2) pairs of socks, and one (1) pair of gloves. 25X1
18. Farmers make Korean clothing in their households, including skirts and socks of cotton cloth (known as Pŏsŏn). No specific clothing is provided for party members, who wear the same clothing as that of average people, farmers, and merchants. The internal affairs station personnel wear military uniforms, and students above middle school wear school uniforms.
19. People seldom wear old military uniforms. U.S. clothing for streetwear was not seen
20. The nearest national department store was about 300 meters [redacted] and the free market was some 400 meters away. There was no cooperative [redacted] Most of the daily commodities, including grains, were available on the free market. 25X1
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21. People are free to shop at either the consumers' goods store or on the free market. If they wanted some items that are difficult to obtain, they would go to the free market in hope of a possible purchase.
22. The blackmarket in North Korea serves various cloth (from China, Soviet, and home-made), grains, and many other daily commodities. Most of the people now engaged in the blackmarket are the poor, with little to feed their mouths. The government policy inclosing down private dealing, is to cut prices at the national store and lay heavy taxes on the private stores.
23. Civilians carry cigarettes, tobacco, a cigarette case, pipe, purse, (for males), and money bags for females. Military personnel carry in their pockets, a pocket-ledger, pencil, mirror, handkerchief, needle, thread, two (2) buttons, and waste paper. Only a few military officers wear watches, mostly Chinese-made. These are scarce in North Korea. The officers also carry lighter, pocket-ledgers, and Chinese-made fountain pens.
24. [redacted] 25X1
25. [redacted] town had electricity and gas (sic), which were in good condition all the time. Charges were unknown. 25X1
26. Electricity was available for lighting [redacted] 25X1
The people [redacted] used either coal or firewood for cooking and heating. [redacted] 25X1
27. The people [redacted] received distributions of coal for fuel, which was not enough to meet their needs. The fuel shortage for the household was met with firewood on sale or coal from the blackmarket. 25X1
28. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Some of the dwelling houses [redacted] 25X1
were of Japanese-style, equipped with bathtub, sink, and yards with flowers. Besides these, there were a few houses in the area. 25X1
29. [redacted] 25X1
30. [redacted]
31. [redacted]
32. [redacted]

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33. The salaries for military personnel are as follows:

Private 75 Wŏn
 Private First Class 100 Wŏn
 Corporal 170 Wŏn
 Sergeant 200 Wŏn
 Master Sergeant 300 Wŏn
 Warrant Officer 400 Wŏn

34. [redacted] 25X1

35. [redacted] bus fees and prices of books as follows: 25X1

Bus fee:

Between Hamhŭng and Hŭngnam 300 Wŏn (Single)

Prices of books:

"Calendar" 30 Wŏn
 "Elementary Military Science" 45 Wŏn
 "Political School Reference Materials" 75 Wŏn
 "Chova (Fanatic) Phonetic and Sura (Fanatic) Phonetic" 120 Wŏn
 "Short Story of Stalin" 70 Wŏn
 "Short Story of KIM Il-sŏng" 50 Wŏn

36. The denominations in which the North Korean Wŏn are printed are 50 Chŏn, 1 Wŏn, 5 Wŏn, 10 Wŏn, and 100 Wŏn, and of these, the 10 Wŏn note is in great use among the military personnel. The [redacted] exchange rate of Wŏn for Yuan was 1 to 4 (250 Wŏn to 1,000 Yuan). 25X1

37. [redacted] exchanged Wŏn for Yuan at the rate of 1 to 4 (250 Wŏn to 1,000 Yuan). 25X1

38. The Chinese-made watches are most readily convertible in North Korea.

39. [redacted] the Hŭngnam Bank located in Hŭngnam-si. 25X1

40. [redacted] the people's armed forces officers deposit their pay in the nearby banks through the financial department of their respective units, at which the depositor is given a deposit pass-book. The depositors may withdraw their money from any bank at any time. 25X1

41. [redacted] 25X1

42. [redacted]

43. [redacted] Ch'ahŭng-ni (Sunch'ŏn-gun, P'yŏngan-nando). 25X1

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44. [redacted] a large population, consisting of farmers (half of the total figure), merchants, managers, and a relatively large number of laborers working at a carbide factory in the area. 25X1
45. [redacted] the people of both sexes [redacted] were mobilized for road construction and other jobs. 25X1
46. [redacted] 25X1
47. [redacted] a group of ten (10) beggars gathered in the vicinity of the Hamhung Railroad Station (CV 750183). 25X1
48. The word "unemployment" is not spoken outloud in North Korea. The Communists propagated that the government had reduced prices of commodities in order to further promote the people's living standard. 25X1
49. [redacted] through Hamhung-si [redacted] the city roads were in good condition. [redacted] P'yongyang had recovered from its war scars. 25X1
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25X1
50. [redacted] 25X1
in P'yongyang, not only Korean war veterans, but also Chinese soldiers in the rear, were mobilized. [redacted] Soviet technicians were designing various factory buildings in P'yongyang. 25X1
51. [redacted] laborers worked for eight (8) hours a day in factories and on rehabilitation. 25X1
52. [redacted] one Soviet advisor for the 5th Corps, People's Armed Forces, [redacted] North Korea received one billion rubles in aid in the form of flour and buses from the Soviet Union and 80 billion Yuan in aid goods from China, such as fountain pens, pocket-ledgers cups, tooth powder (paste), tooth brushes, for the average armed forces personnel, and watches for senior officers. He had once eaten flour food in the army. 25X1
25X1
53. Viewed from the field of military discipline, morals and honesty, the Chinese soldiers are much better than the Soviets.
54. [redacted] North Korea shipped apples to some country for foreign products. 25X1
55. [redacted] passenger planes run from P'yongyang to Hamhung and Sinuiju. 25X1
56. [redacted] able to send all times of mail to any locality in North Korea. 25X1
25X1
57. [redacted] 25X1
58. [redacted]

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59. [redacted] 25X1
60. [redacted]
61. [redacted] the armed forces has a telegraph office 25X1
for personnel [redacted] 25X1
62. [redacted] 25X1
63. [redacted]
64. [redacted] village in Ch'ahŭng-mi (Sunch'ŏn-gun, P'yŏngan-namdo) grows 25X1
rice, yellow millet, and corn. [redacted] 25X1
65. [redacted] 25X1
66. [redacted] the cooperative income was distributed to 25X1
its members according to labor days.
67. [redacted] farmers were suffering from heavy taxes. 25X1
68. [redacted] fertilizer for farmers came from the Hŭngnam Fertilizer 25X1
Factory.
69. [redacted] tractors ploughing fields in North Korea. 25X1
70. [redacted] 25X1
71. [redacted]
72. [redacted] armed forces personnel, one from each company, 25X1
were mobilized for fishing.
73. [redacted] 25X1
74. Some people in [redacted] Ch'ahŭng-mi (Sunch'ŏn-gun) raised pigs, 25X1
chicken, and ducks, which was seemingly in compliance with the govern-
ment's welfare project.
75. [redacted] many animals [redacted] died of 25X1
diseases (names unknown).
76. [redacted] a regiment of the 6th Division, 25X1
5th Corps, conducted field training for its personnel at the nearby
river-side in Ch'angdo-ri (Kimbwa-gun), and there during the recess,
many of the regiment personnel drank the river water and caught
dysentery. At that time [redacted] officers warned [redacted] not to drink 25X1
cold water.
77. The armed forces personnel received medical care at the medical
battalion. The strength of medical groups in the service is ten
(10) officer surgeons to a division and six (6) officer surgeons to
a regiment.
78. [redacted] a People's Hospital is located in his area and 25X1
that a herb doctor is also available for the public.

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79. [redacted] 25X1
80. [redacted]
81. [redacted]
82. The North Korean armed forces units are provided with water wells for consumption in their respective areas.
83. The herb medicine were the only drugs easily available for the population [redacted] 25X1
84. [redacted] the well-water in Yongdŏk-kun was poisoned [redacted] which resulted in a large number of victims. 25X1
85. [redacted] 25X1
86. [redacted]
87. [redacted] in the army, the party members received better spiritual treatment than non-party members. 25X1
88. The Company (party) cell chairmen, controlled by the Division Political Commander, are in charge of the party members of their respective units.
89. The party structure in the army is as follows:
- Regimental Party - Chairman
 - Committee-men
 - Battalion Junior Party - Chairman
 - Committee-men
 - Company (Party) Cell - Chairman
 - Platoon Sub-Cell - Chief
90. The administrative affairs in Sunch'ŏn-gun [redacted] are led by the Sunch'ŏn-gun People's Committee, headed by the Chairman, which controls all the district (Ri) people's committees in the county (Kun), under which the neighborhood teams exist. 25X1
91. When a soldier is transferred to a new unit for assignment, he has to report to the unit officer on his transfer at which time he calls in a loud voice, his rank, name, and the designation of the new unit in the order. The formal greeting between strangers of the same rank is that "I wish for a lot of assistance from you". The average morning greeting between the servicemen is that "Have you been well through the night, comrade OO (rank)?" The official morning greeting at the company is that the company commander before the personnel gathered together at the yard, after making a military salute in return for the personnel's, greets: "Comradest Have you all been

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well through the night?", which is responded with the greeting from the personnel: "Comrade Company Commander, we congratulate you on your good health". Such greetings are also maintained between officers. The servicemen on daily occasions greet each other: "What hardships you undergo?". Among the greeting between the average civilians are "How are you?", "How are you, Comrade OO?", "Are you fine, brother?", and "How are you, grandfather (grandmother)?", which is only to the elders in the village. The Labor Party members also use these greetings among each other.

92. The word "Tongmu" (comrade, lower-level), used by the armed forces personnel of all ranks, was replaced with the expression "Tongji" (comrade, higher-level) in 1955, which was released through the People's Armed Forces Press (Immin-gun Simmun). Presently, however, the servicemen use both words, "Tongji" to their seniors and "Tongmu" to their colleagues or juniors.
93. Soviet motion pictures, such as "The Sentry-box in the Mountains" and "The Love of No Borders", and North Korean movies, such as "Towards the Front Line, Again", and "The Reconnaissance Soldiers". 25X1
 "The Sentry-box in the Mountains" shows two major scenes, each dealing with the role of carrier-pigeons communicating between a sentry-box deep in the mountain and the main office in the level land, and the counter-intelligence activities of the box personnel, who successfully round up some armed espionage agents who had infiltrated into the area. In the course of the apprehension of these spies, who were first discovered by chance by the love of a company commander's, a well-trained horse, named "Saemae" (fanatic) Phonetic who was wise enough to understand his master's words, did a spectacular feat to the viewers' exclamation. At the climax, in rounding up the agents, the horse, voiced by his master, a squad leader, who had been shot down by one of the agents, hurried back to the office with the already arrested agent on his back. "The Love of No Borders" describes the love affair of a negro with a Soviet girl in the Soviet Union, which is warmly welcomed by the Soviet public on the scene. This picture is purported to advocate that the human rights are respected in the Soviet Union. "Towards the Frontline, Again;" In this movie, a hospitalized North Korean squad leader, who was wounded in action, falls in love with a nurse at the People's Hospital. Being impatient of his hospital life, the squad leader, before final recovery, leaves the hospital for the frontline again, where he distinguishes himself with meritorious records, for which he receives the "Hero" citation from KIM Il-sŏng. This picture shows that the People's Armed Forces is full of fighting spirit. "The Reconnaissance Soldiers;" This picture shows the brave activities of a platoon of reconnaissance personnel, led by Lt. Colonel YI Hak-mun, Chief of the Reconnaissance Department of the 5th Corps. The chief, in person, leads the reconnaissance group in assaulting a South Korean unit as well as an United States Unit, to pave the way for the advance by the North Korean troops. On the way to the U.S. unit, he ambushes a U.S. jeep, kills all the personnel aboard, and discovers some documents on the bodies, and then steals into the unit camp, where he kills all the American soldiers. Since 1951, when various plays were performed at theaters in North Korea, there have been no plays to speak of except at the Chinese entertainment party, which on 27 July 1953 played various programs and a circus at the Hamhung Provincial Theater. The delegation won the public applause for its program of popular Korean songs. Source listed the following popular songs.

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1. "The Song of General KIM Il-sŏng"
 2. Sitting side by side on the happy hill
Where happy smiles are in profusion
The hearts start beating
There comes a photo of the unforgettable maiden
A photo of the unforgettable maiden
 3. To ensure freedom and independence of the fatherland
To defend with all our mights
Our beloved homeland
We fought with the foes
On the hills
In the skies and on the sea
We won victory in the fight
In high spirits with victory
Upholding the teachings of our heroic boss
Let's march forward for tomorrow's brilliant construction
94. [redacted] People's Armed Forces Press (Irmin-gun Simmun), 25X1
"Agitators' Handbook", "Elementary Military Science", and "True
Stories of Heroes" [redacted] were all served in the army. [redacted] book 25X1
stores sell a large number of books, such as "Short Story of Stalin"
and "Short Story of KIM Il-sŏng".
95. The People's Armed Forces celebrates with better food January 1st
(New Year's Day), February 8th (Foundation Day of the People's Armed
Forces), May 1st (May Day), June 25th, July 27th (Armistice Day),
and August 15th (Liberation Day). On these holidays, all the personnel
remain on duty. [redacted]
96. [redacted] 25X1
97. [redacted] the Ch'ŏndo-gyo, in which no one seemed to believe, 25X1
in North Korea.
98. [redacted] 25X1
99. North Koreans were free to travel in 1947. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] travellers 25X1
presently have to go through rather complicated procedures.
100. [redacted] 25X1
101. [redacted] the area of Ch'angdo-ri (Kinhwa- 25X1
gun, Kangwŏn-do), which was close to the frontline, was put under
a curfew, starting from 2300 hours.
102. The People's Armed Forces discipline is controlled by the Military
Police personnel whose identity is indicated by an armband on the
left. The intelligence affairs as well as the personnel background
checks are conducted by the Security Department of each unit.
[redacted] the North Koreans are very scared of the internal 25X1
affairs station personnel who are branded by the public as the "tiger
against the people". [redacted] all personnel at the Ch'ahŭng Police 25X1
Unit, Sunch'ŏn Internal Affairs Station. They seemed not to be
shifted frequently.
103. [redacted] 25X1

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104. The civilians as well as the servicemen undergo various forced operations, such as the construction of caves for field tanks with few implements and many other types of work, which has brought about dissatisfaction by the public.

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106.

107.

108.

109.

110. [redacted] the people in North Korea were longing for freedom [redacted] feeling that if Korea is unified under the Communist regime, all people would be deprived of freedom in their movements and would suffer from continuous pain and uneasiness in their life. [redacted]

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